NHS Employers



South East Region

South East Regional Partnership Forum Bulletin – Spring 2022 edition

The Regional Social Partnership Forum (RSPF) brings together NHS Employers, NHS trade unions, NHS England & Improvement (NHSEI) to contribute to the development and implementation of positive practice that impacts on the health workforce in the South East.

Spring message from the Chairs

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work this year and look forward to this new year of partnership. As always, our sessions are enhanced by the sharing of the great work you and your colleagues do so if you have examples of good practice developed in partnership, please contact us!

Hugh, Líam & Carolíne

As Spring and with it a new NHS year starts, we wanted to share with you what we achieved as a Regional Social Partnership Forum in 2021/22 and our joint priorities for 2022/23.

Our priorities and what we have achieved in partnership ...

Covid-19 Pandemic

Together we have discussed the continued impact of the pandemic on our people and shared invaluable information about what actions were being taken across the South-East to support them. We have heard regularly from our colleague Angela Baker at Office for Health Improvement and Disparities about Covid in our region and engaged with colleagues at NHEI on workforce challenges and regional work to address those.

Other news

We have also shared good practice on Just & Learning Culture and talked about a varied range of topics from the management of Covid sickness absence to car parking charges.

We know that 2022/23 will be ever more challenging as we support staff across the region with high service demands and the impact of two years of a pandemic that hasn't yet ended. As a region we will therefore continue to focus on sharing good practice on staff wellbeing and engagement initiatives as well as ensuring we have an open and inclusive culture. We will also be working with ICS workforce leads to ensure the right discussions are happening in the right place and are not duplicated. We are also looking forward to engaging with NHSEI on workforce plans (including education plans) for our region.

What Next?

NHSI/E and System level partnership working

We welcome the appointment of Louise Hall at the Regional HR and OD Director for the South East at NHSI/E and we look forward to exploring how





South East Region

we will work together in partnership with an eye to the establishment of ICBs in July.

Staff Experience

We will be inviting Trusts from across the Region and wider health system to hear how they have maintained and improved the staff experience using information from the staff survey and WRES results.

Future of work: Agile Working

The Network will participate in and support a research project into the impact of agile working on those from lower socio-economic groups in conjunction with the University of Sussex as part of the AgiLab research.

We will continue to plan our Network agendas and events in partnership to address the key priorities in the service and the workforce.

Coming up

The HPMA Award nominations closed on 28 April. Partnership working exemplars of best practice are out there in all regions, and the opportunity to share them has been taken with 15 applications put forward for shortlisting nationally.

AgiLab Session 3 took place on 28 April. All resources available can be accessed by registering on the AgiLab website here: https://agiLab.org.uk. The next workshop will be held on 12 July 2022. Invitations and programme will be shared shortly.